

9/34
ROYAL BURGH OF KIRKCALDY



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE

YEAR 1953

HEALTH AND WELFARE DEPARTMENT,
1-5 ST. BRYCEDALE ROAD,
KIRKCALDY.

July, 1954.

To the PROVOST, MAGISTRATES AND TOWN COUNCILLORS
OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF KIRKCALDY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Report for the year 1953 in terms of D.H.S. Circular 83/1953. I take the opportunity of acknowledging the assistance received from the Corporation staff and officials, and the interest shown by members of the Council in the work of the Department during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES R. W. HAY,
Medical Officer of Health.

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STAFF

DESIGNATION	OFFICER	QUALIFICATION
Medical Officer of Health, Welfare Officer, School Medical Officer, etc.	James R. W. Hay	M.B., Ch.B., M.D., D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health	James A. Petrie, M.C.	M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officer of Health	Agnes C. D. Penman	M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G.
Dental Officers	Miss Rachel I. Mears Alex. S. Mitchell	L.D.S. L.D.S.
Superintendent of Nurses	Miss Rachel M. Thomson	R.G.N., R.F.N., S.C.M., H.V., D.M.
Health Visitors	Miss Mary N. Tweedie Miss Eliz. P. McPherson Miss Charlesina Donaldson Miss Helen C. Keegans Miss Bessie Scott Miss Christian Haig Miss Isabella Mitchell Miss Margaret Cairns Miss Rachel R. Cullen Miss Margaret Berry (Commenced F.T. 5/1/53) Miss Mary Burns (Commenced 9/11/53) Mrs. Irene B. Bannerman Mrs. Isobel J. Hale (Commenced 16/3/53) Mrs. Margaret Kirk (Resigned 15/2/53)	R.G.N., S.C.M. S.C.M., H.V., S.S. R.G.N., R.F.N., S.C.M. R.G.N., S.C.M., H.V. R.G.N., R.F.N., S.C.M., H.V. S.R.M.N. R.G.N., S.C.M., H.V. R.G.N., S.C.M., H.V. R.G.N., S.C.M., H.V. R.G.N., R.F.N., S.C.M., H.V. R.G.N., S.C.M., H.V. R.G.N., S.C.M., H.V. R.G.N., R.F.N., H.V. R.G.N., R.F.N., S.C.M., H.V.
District Nursing Sisters	Mrs. Margaret Wylie Mrs. Mary L. Welsh Mrs. Effie MacIntyre Mrs. Helen B. Walker Miss Jessie Leitch Miss Annie C. Kelly (Commenced 15/5/53) Mrs. Ella Hunter (Commenced 29/5/53) Miss Mary Burns (Commenced 5/5/53) (Resigned 15/10/53) Mrs. Anne W. Campbell (Resigned 15/10/53)	R.G.N., S.C.M., S.R.M.N. R.G.N., S.C.M. R.G.N., S.C.M. R.G.N., R.S.C.N. R.G.N., R.F.N., S.C.M. R.G.N., S.C.M. R.G.N., S.C.M. R.G.N., S.C.M. R.G.N., S.C.M., B.T.A.
Qualified Assistant Nurses	Miss Bessie H. Berry Mrs. Margaret Smith (Resigned 21/10/53)	S.E.A.N. S.E.A.N.
Principal Midwives	Miss Margaret Brown Miss Georgina Bell (Resigned 20/10/53) Miss Margaret Livingstone (Resigned 8/4/53) Re-engaged 30/9/53)	S.C.M. R.G.N., S.C.M. R.G.N., S.C.M.

DESIGNATION	OFFICER	QUALIFICATION
Municipal Midwives (<i>Contd.</i>)	Miss C. S. Dalgarno (Commenced 18/5/53 Resigned 24/10/53)	S.C.M.
	Miss Sarah W. Brown (Commenced 25/3/53 Resigned 1/10/53)	R.G.N., S.C.M.
	Miss Marjory L. Moodie (Commenced 9/11/53)	R.G.N., S.C.M.
" Authorised " and Assistant Welfare Officers	William Eadie Robert T. Cuthbert	
Welfare Officer (Abden Home)	David Needham	
Medical Officer (Abden Home)	George F. Cables	M.B., Ch.B.
Consultant Oculist	C. R. Duncan Leeds	M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.E., D.O.M.S.
Chief Sanitary Inspector (and Inspector of Cleansing)	John Page	M.R.San.I., A.M.Inst.P.C.
Deputy Sanitary Inspector	Forbes B. Moodie	
Assistant Sanitary Inspectors	David K. Comrie Joseph Oates Robert Easson James Halfpenny	
Assistant Cleansing Inspector	Angus C. Brown	

CLINICS

Tuberculosis and V.D. Dispensary	Dunnikier Road
Child Welfare; Ante-natal; Dental; School and Minor Ailments; Eye; Ultra Violet Ray, etc.	Loughborough Rd
Child Welfare; School and Minor Ailments; Dental; Ear, Nose and Throat; Immunisation, etc.	Glebe Park
Child Welfare 	Alison Street
Child Welfare 	Hayfield

FOREWORD
AND
VITAL STATISTICS

VITAL STATISTICS

TABLE I

	1953	1952	1951
Population, estimated to middle of year	50,119	49,424	49,230
Births	840	810	923
Birth-rate per 1,000 population	16.8	16.4	18.7
Illegitimate birth-rate per 100 live births	4.2	3.1	2.9
Marriages	489	453	474
Marriage rate	9.8	9.2	9.6
Deaths	535	588	645
Death-rate per 1,000 population	10.7	11.9	13.1
Infant Deaths	24	31	33
Infantile Mortality rate	29	38	36
Still-births	20	25	22
Still-birth rate per 1,000 live births	23	30	23
Maternal Deaths	—	1	—
Maternal Death-rate	—	1.2	—
All Tuberculosis Deaths	8	15	17
All Tuberculosis Death-rate	0.16	0.30	0.35
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Deaths	8	14	17
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death-rate	0.16	0.28	0.35
Area of Burgh	4,890	4,890	4,890
Census of occupied houses	15,480	14,722	14,454
Rateable value of Burgh	£451,563	£412,153	£401,903

FOREWORD

It is not proposed to review in detail the operation of the Health Services since this was done last year. The Secretary of State referred to the Special reviews in D.H.S. Circular No. 83/1953—"The reviews generally contained much information about the actual services in operation, and suggestions and criticisms which have enabled the Department to form a better picture of the operation of the National Health Services in the respective local health authorities in Scotland."

The local picture has not changed to any appreciable extent but one may regard with modest optimism the general trends in the health and the health services in the Burgh. With the usual proviso that one year's statistics are not especially significant it can be stated that the vital statistics for 1953 are uniformly good. There is an increasing number of births and the death rate is low. Infant deaths have reached a new low level rate of 29 per 1,000 live births and most of these deaths occurred shortly after birth. No deaths occurred in mothers, the maternal death rate being nil. Deaths from tuberculosis are extremely low considering the number of cases, and here one comes up against the fact that there are far too many new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis each year. Actually there were 72, as against 68 in 1952, and the low death rates are entirely due to the newer drugs which are most effective in averting death. Reference has been made in previous reports to the desirability of protecting young susceptible adolescents during the main danger period, *i.e.*, when they leave school. School leavers were tested toward the end of the year and roughly 80% were found to require protection by B.C.G. vaccine.* Of the remaining who had already come in contact with tuberculosis one girl was found to be suffering from active tuberculosis and two girls and nine boys showed healed lesions. Three girls and two boys did not report for their final X-ray examination and it is just possible that some of these may have active disease. This initial survey more than justifies the Burgh's school leaver scheme which will continue with the co-operation of all concerned. There must be many who have left school in the last ten or fifteen years who now show evidence of disease on X-ray and an appeal is made to these to submit themselves to examination. Two mass radiography units are to visit the Burgh in the late Autumn of 1954 and any young adult who has not previously been X-rayed should take advantage of the facilities then to be afforded. In time tuberculosis should be controlled by protection methods so successful in the case of diphtheria.

* vaccinated in 1954.

No case of diphtheria has occurred in the Burgh for many years, but so long as cases continue to occur in the country immunisation must be kept up, and there is a tendency to forget that all infants must still be immunised against diphtheria. The Burgh has always provided immunisation against whooping cough, but this has not pushed so long as there were doubts as to the efficacy of the vaccine. During the year the newer vaccines which are much more effective were employed and these are now combined with diphtheria prophylaxis. It is with confidence therefore that parents are urged to have two things given to their infants (a) combined diphtheria and whooping cough prophylaxis and (b) vaccination against smallpox.

The increase in population does not reflect exactly the number of new families moving in since there has been an increase in the number of families moving out. The result has been a relatively large influx from areas whose characteristics of a high birth rate and high infant death rate have required urgent attention. It is imperative that child welfare services be brought to the new housing schemes, and plans for a new clinic at Fair Isle Road have been prepared. Fortunately provision had already been made for a site.

Where property must be acquired for Health purposes the Council has been uniformly unsuccessful for many years. It is most discouraging to members of the Committee who have inspected and approved property for conversion into homes for old persons, children, or nurses, to learn that the procedure adopted for acquisition has permitted some one else to step in front of them. Not only does it cause delay in the development of the services, but the Council is faced with the possibility of having to vacate its present nurses' home at short notice. A more effective procedure should be sought.

With the speeding up of the housing programme the most desperate needs have been met and it is now possible to envisage and phase the commitments of the Council in the near future. The opportunity has been taken to plan the redevelopment of areas of old and sub-standard property now that there is a reasonable prospect of accommodating the first of those displaced. The erection of multi-storey flats should make profitable use of the cleared sites and is in keeping with the characteristics of this industrial town.

The exceptionally dry Autumn of 1952 and the virtual absence of snow precipitated a shortage of water as was anticipated. Temporary relaxation of the Burgh's onus to provide compensation water, stringent conservancy, and help from Fife County Council tided the Burgh over a most difficult year. The possibility of obtaining supplementary water from deep underground sources has been explored and it would appear at the time of writing that up to three quarters of a million gallons per day may be relied on from the Council's bore at Rotlies.

It is extremely difficult to forecast the future needs of Kirkcaldy either in housing or in such matters as water supply. On one hand is the development of mining as exemplified by the important new pit starting at Seafeld with the possibility of associated lighter industries and on the other hand the rapid growth of the "dormitory" town of Glenrothes. The merging, in the physical sense at least, of Glenrothes, Thornton, Kirkcaldy and Kinghorn would appear to be inevitable if coal continues to be a determining factor in the economy of this country, and in Fife in particular.

Towards the end of the year the Almoner service was introduced. The Almoner has been well received by hospitals, specialists, and general medical practitioners and it is already obvious that the demand for her services will continue to increase. The initial cases were referred mainly from the local hospitals and from my own nursing staff. Apart from the primary object of tiding people through periods of illness and misfortune the Almoner's knowledge of appropriate agencies has tapped resources which have materially reduced the burdens on the Local Authority.

In conclusion, mention might be made of two matters of elementary hygiene which are assuming added importance.

Cleanliness in handling food up to the time it is actually eaten is the only way to avoid food poisoning and gastro enteritis which is believed to be widespread. While manufacturers and tradesmen can be educated and supervised the housewife herself is too often the culprit. Milk and milk products are especially liable to contamination, and meat products should never be "warmed up" but should be properly heated to kill infecting bacteria.

Considerable publicity has been given to the undoubted increase in cancer of the lung and it has been shown that there is a statistical relationship between the condition and smoking. There is however a similar relationship in smokers for those who dwell in large towns as against those who live in the country. In other words, smoke whether it comes from cigarettes or chimneys is an irritant to the delicate lung tissues and may cause in time or predispose to the development of malignant disease. Smoke and fume abatement is therefore a matter of vital concern to the community.

TABLE II
Infant Mortality Statistics

	Number of Deaths	Death-rate
Under 1 week	13 (9m. 4f.)	15
1 to 2 weeks	— ()	—
2 to 3 weeks	— ()	—
3 to 4 weeks	— ()	—
4 weeks to 3 months	5 (1m. 4f.)	6
3 to 6 months	3 (1m. 2f.)	4
6 to 9 months	3 (1m. 2f.)	4
9 to 12 months	— ()	—
TOTAL	24 (12m. 12f.)	29

Certified Cause of Death

Prematurity and Debility	8
Pneumonia	6
Asphyxia	3
Microcephaly	1
Hydrocephalus	1
Gastro Enteritis	1
Meningitis	2
Convulsions	1
Pink Disease	1
Total	24

A. LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY FUNCTIONS

TABLE III

1. Care of Mothers and Young Children (Section 22).

(a) ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS* (Whether provided at Child Welfare Centres or at other premises).

	<i>Ante-natal</i>	<i>Post-natal</i>
(i) Number of clinics at end of year provided by local health authority	1	1
(ii) Number of clinics at end of year provided by voluntary bodies	—	—
(iii) Total number of women who attended the clinics during the year	1,064	152

(b) CHILD WELFARE CLINICS*

(i) Number of clinics at end of year provided by local health authority	4
(ii) Number of clinics at end of year provided by voluntary bodies	—

*Clinics mean clinic premises.

- (iii) Total number of children under 5 years of age who first attended at the clinics during the year and who, on the date of their first attendance were :

(a) Under one year of age	583
(b) Over one year of age	76

- (iv) Total number of attendances during the year made at the clinics by children who, at the end of the year were :

(a) Under one year of age	6,183
(b) Over one year of age	2,995

(c) DENTAL CARE FOR EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS,
PRE-SCHOOL AND SCHOOL CHILDREN

	<i>Expectant Mothers</i>	<i>Nursing Mothers</i>	<i>Pre-school Children</i>
(i) Number inspected by Dental Officer	27	3	128
(ii) Number found to require treatment	27	3	121
(iii) Number accepting treatment	23	3	121
(iv) Number actually treated by Dental Officer	14	3	121

TABLE IV

2. Health Visiting (Section 24).

	<i>No. Visited</i>	<i>Total Visits</i>
(a) Local Health Authority Services :		
(i) Expectant Mothers	235	524
(ii) Infants	878	11,507
(iii) Children (1-5 years)	3,328	18,392
(iv) Cases of Tuberculosis	344	1,393
<i>Other cases</i>		
Old Persons	39	39
Infectious Diseases	461	461
Domestic Help Scheme	295	3,386
Housing (Medical Conditions)	412	417
Miscellaneous	61	61

Of the 740 infants visited at the age of six months, 190 were breast fed, 519 were artificially fed, and 31 were fed by both methods.

TABLE V

3. Midwifery (Section 23)

(a) Total number of births (including still-births) occurring in the area during the year—that is, before correction for mother's residence	1,509
(b) Number of births in (a) classified to show type of case and whether doctor present at confinement :	
(i) Cases dealt with under Section 23(2) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947 :	
(a) doctor engaged and present at confinement	71
(b) doctor engaged but not present at confinement	138
(c) midwife alone (no doctor engaged)	—
(d) no prior arrangements for domiciliary confinement (booked for maternity hospital), but midwifery services provided by local health authority free of charge	—
(e) Domiciliary cases transferred to maternity hospital for confinement	6
(ii) Other domiciliary cases :	
(a) doctor engaged	3
(b) midwife alone (no doctor engaged)	9
(c) all other cases	7
(iii) Cases attended at Institution (including private maternity and nursing homes) in the area of the local health authority	1,275
(iv) Administration of Analgesia :	
(a) Number of domiciliary midwives qualified to administer gas and air analgesia in accordance with the requirements of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland	3
(b) Number of sets of apparatus for the administration of gas and air at 31st December, 1953	2
(c) Number of cases in which gas and air was administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year :	
(i) when doctor was not present at delivery	50
(ii) when doctor was present at delivery	18
(d) Number of cases in which pethidine was administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year :	
(i) when doctor was not present at delivery (but under doctor's instructions)	50
(ii) when doctor was present at delivery	30
(v) Number of cars in use by midwives at 31st December, 1953 (taxis hired during night)	1
(vi) Number of Maternity Packs issued to domiciliary cases during year	231
Cost	£141 14s
(vii) Number of visits by domiciliary midwives to cases during the year	4,541

Of the 1,486 confinements which took place in the Burgh during the year the distribution was as follows :

(a)	Conducted in patient's own home :	
(i)	Under National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947	201
(ii)	Not under National Health Service (Scot.) Act, 1947	24
(b)	Conducted in Forth Park Maternity Hospital :	
(i)	Burgh patients	581
(ii)	County patients	674
(iii)	Domiciliary cases transferred to Forth Park Hospital	6

Twenty-eight midwives (including the staff of Forth Park Maternity Hospital) notified their intention to practice in the Burgh during the year.

TABLE VI

4. Home Nursing (Section 25)

	<i>Under 65 years of age</i>	<i>Over 65 years of age</i>
1. Number of cases attended by home nurses under arrangements made by the local health authority	1,027	368
2. Number of visits paid by district nurses to above	16,689	8,459

TABLE VII

5. Domestic Help (Section 28)

(i)	Number of domestic helps employed at end of year :	
(a)	Whole-time	1
(b)	Part-time	70
(c)	Retaining fee basis	—
(ii)	Number of cases for which domestic help was provided during the year	295
	Number of cases in (ii) provided on account of :	
(a)	Confinement at home	5
(b)	Confinement in hospital	2
(c)	Chronic sick, including aged and infirm	157
(iii)	Average period of assistance	170 hrs.

TABLE VIII

6. Vaccination and Immunisation (Section 26)

The following statistics show the work done during the year :

(i) VACCINIA :

Number of vaccinations by general practitioners	249
Number of vaccinations by Child Welfare Officer	155

(ii) DIPHTHERIA :

	<i>First</i>	<i>Doses Maintenance</i>
Number of inoculations by general practitioners	210	30
Number of inoculations by Child Welfare Officer	640	903

(iii) WHOOPING COUGH :

Number of first visits only	204	—
Number of return visits	227	—

(iv) TUBERCULOSIS :

Number of Nurses vaccinated with B.C.G.	1
Number of Contacts vaccinated with B.C.G.	37
Number of others vaccinated with B.C.G.	5

Vaccination against Smallpox

Number of Persons primarily vaccinated during period :

Year of Birth of Persons	Typical Vaccinia greatest at 7th to 10th day	Accelerated (vaccinoid) reaction 5th to 7th day	Reaction greatest at 2nd to 3rd day	No local reaction
1953	121	—	—	15
1952	127	—	—	6
1951	6	—	—	—
1950	7	1	—	—
1949	1	—	—	—
1948	5	—	—	—
1947	1	—	—	—
1946	3	—	—	—
1945	—	—	—	—
1944	—	—	—	—
1943	3	—	—	—
1942	—	—	—	—
1941	—	—	—	—
1940	—	—	—	—
1939	—	—	—	—
1938 or earlier	9	—	—	—
TOTALS	283	1	—	21

Number of Persons re-vaccinated during period :

Year of Birth of Persons	Typical Vaccinia greatest at 7th to 10th day	Accelerated (vaccinoid) reaction 5th to 7th day	Reaction greatest at 2nd to 3rd day	No local reaction
1953	1	—	—	—
1952	—	1	—	—
1951	—	1	—	—
1950	—	1	1	—
1949	—	1	—	—
1948	—	2	1	—
1947	1	2	1	1
1946	—	—	—	—
1945	1	3	—	—
1944	1	1	1	—
1943	—	—	1	—
1942	1	—	—	—
1941	—	1	—	—
1940	—	—	—	—
1939	—	—	—	—
1938 or earlier	20	29	25	1
TOTALS	25	42	30	2

Diphtheria Immunisation

Year of Birth of Persons	No. of New Immunisations completed during period	No. of maintenance inoculations given during period	Confirmed cases of Diphtheria during period	
			Immunised	Non-immunised
1953	30	—	—	—
1952	329	—	—	—
1951	91	—	—	—
1950	35	—	—	—
1949	23	6	—	—
1948	72	378	—	—
1947	202	466	—	—
1946	41	40	—	—
1945	4	11	—	—
1944	4	5	—	—
1943	13	21	—	—
1942	4	6	—	—
1941	—	—	—	—
1940	—	—	—	—
1939	—	—	—	—
1938 or earlier	2	—	—	—
Totals	850	933	Nil	Nil

B.C.G. Vaccination

Group	Tuberculin Tested		Negative Re-actors		Vaccinated during 1953	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Nurses	—	59	—	1	—	1
Contacts	34	34	17	25	20	17
Others	11	20	6	6	3	2

Number of Contacts Tuberculin Tested under
the B.C.G. Vaccination Scheme :

Age Group	Result				Totals	
	Positive		Negative			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	1	—	1	—	2	—
1 and under 5 years	3	3	6	6	9	9
5 and under 10 years	4	2	4	9	8	11
10 and under 15 years	5	2	6	9	11	11
15 and under 20 years	4	1	—	1	4	2
20 years and over	—	1	—	—	—	1
Total Tests Performed	17	9	17	25	34	34

TABLE IX**7. Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care**

During the year goods, comprising beds and bedding, to the value of £45 7s. 4d., were supplied to eight applicants suffering from tuberculosis. No financial recovery was made.

TABLE X
8. Control of Infectious Diseases

Nature of Disease	No. of Cases Notified	Removed to Hospital	Not Removed to Hospital
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	6	6	—
Chickenpox	265	1	264
Dysentery	32	11	21
Erysipelas	30	2	28
Jaundice, Acute Infective	21	—	21
Malaria	2	1	1
Measles	205	4	201
Pneumonia, acute influenzal	9	5	4
Pneumonia, acute primary	79	55	24
Pneumonia (not otherwise notifiable)	1	—	1
Poliomyelitis (Non paralytic)	1	1	—
Puerperal Sepsis	2	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	7	7	—
Scarlet Fever	160	11	149
Whooping Cough	374	10	364
Gastro Enteritis	17	17	—
Food Poisoning	2	—	2
Glandular Fever	2	2	—
Enteritis	2	2	—
TOTALS	1,217	137	1,080

Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Seventy-two cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during 1953 as compared with sixty-eight for the previous year.

Age Period	No. of cases notified		No. of notified cases receiving Sanatorium Treatment		No. of deaths of cases notified during 1953		Total deaths	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 10 years	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 "	1	3	1	2	—	—	—	—
15 to 25 "	7	16	7	10	—	—	—	—
25 to 35 "	8	11	6	6	—	1	1	2
35 to 45 "	5	4	2	3	—	1	—	1
45 to 65 "	7	2	4	—	1	—	1	—
65 upwards	4	1	1	—	1	—	3	—
TOTALS	34	38	23	21	2	2	5	3

Of the above cases 5 Males aged—28(2), 43(2), 71 } were trans-
 5 Females aged—23, 26, 29, 43, 74 } ferred in.
 4 Females aged—26(2), 29, 43 were transferred out.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Twenty cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during 1953 as compared with seven cases for the previous year.

Age Period	No. of cases notified		No. of notified cases receiving Sanatorium Treatment		No. of deaths of cases notified during 1953		Total Deaths	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
5 to 10 years	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 "	2	3	1	1	—	—	—	—
15 to 25 "	3	4	1	3	—	—	—	—
25 to 35 "	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 to 45 "	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 to 65 "	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
65 upwards	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	7	13	3	6	—	—	—	—

The site of the disease of the above cases was found to be :

Kidney	1 (1f.)
Glands	9 (3m. 6f.)
Spine	1 (1m.)
Joint	2 (1m. 1f.)
Meninges	4 (4f.)
Other	3 (2m. 1f.)

Number of persons residing in the area at 31/12/53 known to be suffering from tuberculosis :

Pulmonary	309
Non-Pulmonary	58
Total	<u>367</u>

TABLE XI

9. Mental Health Service

MENTAL DEFECTIVES :

	M.	F.
Number of children (under 16 years) in Institutions	1	6
Number of adults (under private guardianship)	5	3
Number of adults in Institutions	17	14

LUNACY :

The following statistics show the position at Fife District Mental Hospital with regard to Burgh patients :

	M.	F.
Number in the Institution at 31/12/52	66	71
Number certified insane and removed to Fife District Mental Hospital during 1953	14	20
Discharges during 1953	5	7
Deaths during 1953	2	9
Number in the Institution at 31/12/53	73	75

10. Work under Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Act

No applications for registration were received during the year.

TABLE XII

B. SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

As formerly, school medical inspection has been carried out by the Burgh's staff, and a full report has been forwarded to the Education Authority. A brief summary relating to the school year 1952/53 is given herewith :

	Boys	Girls	Total
Number of parents present at medical inspection :			
(a) with entrant infants	362	310	672
(b) with others (second age group)	175	268	443
(c) at clinics	—	—	76
Number of examinations :			
Entrants	524	451	975
Second age group	299	364	663
Third age group	411	428	839
Vision testing (6-7 years)	341	336	677
Fourth age group	29	44	73
Re-examinations	232	241	473
Non-routines	169	190	359
Total	2,542	2,632	5,250

	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number of children examined	1,263	1,287	2,550
Clean	642	653	1,295
Nits or head vermin	14	64	78
Visions—routine	336	341	677
non-routine	32	38	70
re-examinations	29	31	60
Referred for examination—routine	38	43	81
	<hr/> 2,354	<hr/> 2,457	<hr/> 4,811

Total number of clinic sessions :

(a) General clinics	52
(b) Special clinics—Eye	7

MINOR AILMENTS CLINIC :

Number of new cases	1,753
Total attendances	4,496
Number of parents present	76

Treatments carried out by nurses :

	<i>New cases</i>	<i>Total attendances</i>
Uncleanliness or Neglect	—	—
Impetigo Contagiosa	187	662
Other Skin Conditions	54	251
Otorrhoea	79	168
Eye Disease (external)	64	127
Other cases	254	722
Cuts and Bruises	568	1,107
Septic conditions	334	1,008
Accidents	36	64
Advisory cases	39	27
Ear cases	12	19
Total	<hr/> 1,627	<hr/> 4,155

Applications were received for boots and clothing as under :

	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>
Clothing and Boots	25	18
Clothing only	—	—
Boots only	—	—

Fifteen children of school age were accommodated for short periods in Children's Convalescent Homes—thirteen at Humble (Seaforth Sanatorium Trust); and two at the S.L.S.S.C.C. Home, St. Andrews.

Dental Inspection and Treatment

Number of children who were inspected during the year :

Age	Systematic Examina- tions	Special and Emergency Cases	Total
-5	66	—	66
5	608	118	726
6	556	142	698
7	451	104	555
8	357	98	455
9	260	70	330
10	280	72	352
11	274	48	322
12	435	52	487
13	441	54	495
14	536	36	572
15	162	8	170
16	3	2	5
17	—	1	1
	4,429	805	5,234
Found to require treatment	2,992	805	
Actually treated by School Dental Officer	1,197	805	
No. of attendances for treatment	2,754	2,056	
Fillings :			
(a) Permanent Teeth	1,285	432	
(b) Temporary Teeth	202	104	
Extractions :			
(a) Permanent Teeth	168	72	
(b) Temporary Teeth	941	542	
No. of administrations of general anaesthetic for extraction	—	3	
Other operations :			
(a) Permanent Teeth	525	611	
(b) Temporary Teeth	1,480	1,385	
Scaling and Gum Treatment	526	174	
Sessions devoted to inspection	50	—	
Sessions devoted to treatment	428	419	
Referred for X-ray	5	25	
Orthodontic treatment :			
No. of new cases	—	32	
No. of attendances (old and new cases)	—	700	

C. PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Eighteen ships from foreign ports entered Kirkcaldy Harbour during 1953 and pratique was granted in all cases.

D. FOOD SUPPLY

See Sanitary Inspector's Report, page 27.

E. MISCELLANEOUS

1. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

TABLE XIII
Residential Accommodation

		Part III Accommodation			Part II Accommodation		
		M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.
Number at 31/12/52	K.	28	13	—	—	—	—
	D.	7	4	—	—	—	—
Admitted during 1953	K.	17	9	3	3	3	1
	D.	2	—	—	—	—	—
Discharged during 1953	K.	13	9	3	3	3	1
	D.	2	2	—	—	—	—
Deaths during 1953	K.	6	5	—	—	—	—
	D.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number at 31/12/53	K.	26	8	—	—	—	—
	D.	7	2	—	—	—	—

K.—Kirkcaldy

D.—Dunfermline

Registration and inspection of disabled or old persons' homes (Section 37) Nil

Removals (Section 47) Nil

Care of property (Section 48) 1

Burials (Section 50) 6

2. Work done under the Nursing Homes Registration (Scotland) Act.

No nursing homes proper operate in the Burgh, exemption being granted to Kirkcaldy General Hospital and the Hunter Hospital, now the property of the South-Eastern Regional Hospital Board, Scotland.

3. Health Education

Full use has been made of all propaganda measures. The department's officers have a regular programme of lectures, etc., during the winter.

TABLE XIV
FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

Part I of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	60	19	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by local authorities	325	424	—	—
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	20	—	—
	389	463	—	—

2. Cases in which Defects were found :

	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of Cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Lack of Cleanliness (S.I.)	.....	1	.....	1	.....
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	.....		.....	.....	.....
a) Insufficient	.....	(3 being attended to)	.....	3	.....
b) Unsuitable or defective	12	12	.....	3	.....
c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	.....	.....	.....
Total	13	14	.....	7	.....

Part VIII of the Act
OUTWORK

(SECTIONS 110 AND 111)

NIL



SANITARY DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HOUSE,
KIRKCALDY.

June, 1954.

To the PROVOST, MAGISTRATES AND TOWN COUNCILLORS
OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF KIRKCALDY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Sanitary
and Cleansing Departments for the year 1953.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN PAGE,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING

1. General Progress

A vigorous housing policy has been pursued by the Town Council since the end of the war and this reached a new high level in 1953 when 785 houses were completed, bringing the post-war total to 2,959 houses at 31st December from all sources. Of the houses completed during the year 189 were occupied by families from overcrowded houses, 199 by homeless families, 340 by families from other houses, including health cases and three families from condemned houses, and 49 by transferred miners. Having regard to the houses vacated and all the new houses erected, which includes eight privately built dwellings, there was a total known turnover of more than 1,200 houses during the year, which has considerably eased the demand for housing accommodation. The Burgh's waiting list showed a reduction of nearly 400 cases through re-housing activities in 1953, mainly in respect of homeless and overcrowded families, leaving a balance of 2,331 applications still outstanding. When analysed the waiting list revealed the following details :—668 homeless families, living in sub-let rooms ; 137 overcrowded cases ; 145 families in houses classified as unfit ; 95 persons wishing hostel accommodation ; 56 about to be married ; 1,131 families residing in passable houses, wishing alternative accommodation and 106 Corporation tenants requesting a transfer of house.

In 1951, the sanitary staff carried out a house-to-house survey in the Links Area, where the first post-war re-development scheme is proposed. At that time it was found there was a high proportion of small families and single persons to be re-housed, and many wished to remain in this district. A check survey early this year covering part of the area likely to be dealt with first revealed very little change in circumstances, which means that a high proportion of small houses will require to be built on the cleared sites or in the immediate neighbourhood. By the end of the year a detailed survey of Links houses was in progress so that representations could be prepared in terms of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950. A housing survey of a large area in the lower part of Dysart was also completed this year in preparation of re-development plans for this ward. From recent surveys and other records it is estimated that about 1,000 houses will require to be closed in the town as unfit for human habitation during the next few years, 165 of which are already owned by the Corporation. In conjunction with other Burgh officials a phased programme of condemnation of houses has been prepared to ensure orderly progress of this work in relation to replacement houses and re-development, where possible, of the cleared sites, so that new houses can be re-erected again.

Three houses, condemned before the war, were vacated and closed this year and the record number of 79 houses were voluntarily closed by private owners ; others are to be closed when the tenants leave. House repairs were found to be too costly for most of these low-rented worn-out houses. When voluntary closure is accepted the owner is required to dismantle the interior of each house and close it up in such

a way that it cannot be taken possession of by squatters. Most of the voluntarily closed houses are in areas listed for commercial development and will be cleared away in due course. Landlords' rates are not levied on closed houses that have been agreed with this department to be unfit for human habitation.

Modernisation of rented houses by means of improvement grants available under the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950, has not made progress locally ; applications are mainly in respect of owner-occupied houses.

During the year fifteen applications were lodged ; seven were granted. Joint inspections of all such proposals continue to be made along with the Burgh Engineer.

Sanitary reports were prepared in respect of twenty-three houses likely to be acquired by purchasers in terms of the Council's scheme under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts. Sixty-one plans, covering general improvements and alterations to houses, were examined and reported upon to ensure compliance with bye-laws and other public health standards.

The sanitary staff made a total of 2,739 visits throughout the year to houses in connection with re-housing survey and investigation.

2. Supervision of Food

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (Scotland) Order, 1953, came into operation on 1st May and from that date all milk sold in the town had to be of graded quality.

For some years now only designated milks have been retailed locally and no difficulties have arisen since the Order commenced. The fact, however, that milk must now be sold in sealed bottles or containers is a notable advancement from the days, not so long ago, when it was retailed from the brass spigot of a ten-gallon can into the uncovered pint measure and jug on the street, in all kinds of weather.

Improvements recorded at milk producers premises include a new dairy byre for twenty-four cows, modernisation of the milk-house and dairy scullery at Carberry Farm and extensive repairs to the dairy scullery at Dunnikier Home Farm. Further discussions took place with officials from the Department of Agriculture regarding plans for improvements and new dairy premises at Bogleys and Myregormie farms ; these works are likely to commence in the coming year. Dairy byres and milk houses were visited on 150 occasions, namely at milking times or when bottling or bottle-washing was being done. In one case the cleaning of plant and equipment was found to be most unsatisfactory and the byre floors could also have been cleaner. Increased attention was given to this farm and at two others, where

bacteriological samples of milk and rinses over the equipment showed the presence of B.Coli or high counts. Replacement of worn plastic tubes for a milk unit was asked in one case. One milk dealer was advised to give greater attention to cleanliness of milk bottling plant which also needed new rubber valves fitted. Another dealer was asked to clear an accumulation of unused milk bottles.

There are now only five exempted dairies at smallholdings where five cows are kept ; any surplus milk is fed to livestock, mainly poultry and pigs.

The two pasteurising plants functioned satisfactorily, although not without complaint, this year. Failure of a milk sample to comply with the Phosphatase Test caused some concern until a defect was found at the milk diversion valve which should normally return milk back for further treatment if it has not been properly heated. A new milk bottling plant of latest design was provided at the S.C.W.S. premises, Dysart, to replace the converted plant which had not been working satisfactorily. Results of milk tests at both plants are sent weekly to the Sanitary Inspector.

A total of 850 milk cans were examined at creameries ; in seven cases cans were found to be dirty and one can was in a damaged and split condition. The owners were notified.

Details of dairy premises registered and licenced in 1953 are as follows :—

(1) REGISTRATIONS : MILK AND DAIRIES (Scotland)
ACT, 1914

	<i>Number</i>
Dairy byres capable of housing 245 cows (actual cows 220)	9
Milk retailers retailing within the Burgh	19
Retailed shops where only bottled milk is sold	21
Producers and wholesalers who do not sell by retail	6

(2) LICENCES : MILK (Special Designations) (Scotland)
ORDER, 1951

	<i>Number</i>
Supplementary licences to sell Certified Milk	2
Dealers licenced to sell Certified Milk	1
Supplementary licences to sell T.T. milk	3
Dealers licenced to sell T.T. milk	8
Producers licenced to produce T.T. milk	6
Dealers licenced to sell Pasteurised milk	4
Pasteurisers' Licences	2
Dealers licenced to sell T.T. milk (wholesale only)	2

3. Milk (Special Designations) Orders

From 1st January, 1953, the new arrangement started of submitting milks and other foods for bacteriological tests to the Fife District Laboratory, Cameron Hospital, Windygate, and has worked well under the direction of Dr. Haig MacPherson, Superintendent.

Milks submitted for bacteriological tests were as follows :—

	Number	Conformed	<i>Did not</i> Conform
Certified Milk	24	15	9
Tuberculin Tested Milk	127	110	17
Pasteurised Milk	56	55	1
Undesignated Milk	13	7	6
	<u>220</u>	<u>187</u>	<u>33</u>

The thirty-three samples which did not conform showed either the presence of B.Coli in 1/10th or 1/100th of a millilitre or excessive bacterial counts. The Certified milks which did not conform related to milk retailed by one dealer, who obtained his supplies from County farms where extensive investigation was made to remedy the trouble. The seventeen samples of Tuberculin Tested milk found not conforming were spread over the milk supply from eight dealers, two of which were also producers within the Burgh. The County Sanitary Inspectors and Milk Officers dealt with the producers of the incoming supplies while local investigations were made at producers' premises. Altogether thirty-five follow-up samples of milk were tested in remedying these supplies and eight rinses from different parts of the dairy equipment had to be taken to find the source of contamination at producers' premises. The presence of B.Coli, with at times high bacterial counts, also occurred in the Burgh premises of an undesignated milk producer who has an attested herd. The routine of cleaning dairy utensils was found to be faulty ; an improvement took place when methods were altered.

Ten samples of milk were submitted to Professor Tulloch, University College Laboratory, Dundee, for biological tests covering three bulk samples from six graded milk producers and four from undesignated milk producers. Three follow-up samples were taken from individual T.T. producers when it was reported that glandular enlargement had occurred in inoculated animals after four weeks. The results, however, were all found to be satisfactory.

4. Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928

During the year a total of 158 samples were submitted to Mr. Andrew Dargie, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., Public Analyst, for his examination.

Notes from Mr. Dargie's annual report to the Town Council are included in this section. The various samples analysed were as undernoted :—

<i>Foods</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Not Genuine</i>
Sweet Milk	81	3
Ice Cream	16	1
Mince	6	—
Sausages	6	—
Cooking Fat	4	—
Butter (4), Margarine (4)	8	—
Spices (5), Pickles and Sauces (3)	8	—
Whisky (6), Beer (2)	8	—
Tinned Foods (2), Meat Paste (2)	4	—
Jam (2), Condensed Milk (1), Jellies (1), Lemon Curd (1)	5	—
Baking Soda (1), Cream of Tartar (1) Swiss Roll (1), Vinegar (1), Raisins (1), Currants (1)	6	—
Lemonade (1), Orange Squash (1), Iron Brew (1), Coffee Essence (1), Gelatine (1), Whipping Cream (1)	6	—
	<u>158</u>	<u>4</u>

MILK

The average quality of the milk supply as indicated by the results of analysis of the 81 samples was as follows :—

Water	87.52
Total Solids	12.48
Butter Fat	3.82
Solids-not-Fat	8.66
	<u>100.00</u>

Three samples were found to be deficient in butter fat or solids-not-fat or in both constituents ; the results of the analyses were :—

<i>Butter Fat per Cent</i>	<i>Solids-not-Fat per Cent</i>	<i>Depression of Freezing Point</i>
2.49	6.92	— .435°C. = 18% added water
2.61	6.88	— .420°C. = 20% added water
3.28	8.36	— .518°C. = 2% added water

MINCE (6), SAUSAGES (3)

All the samples of mince were free from preservatives ; two samples of sausages were also free, the others contained 32, 64, 96 and 128 parts per million of Sulphur Dioxide ; all these samples conformed to regulations.

BUTTER (4), MARGARINE (4)

The percentages of water in the butters ranged from 14.22 per cent to 14.70 per cent and in the margarine from 14.76 per cent to 15.20 per cent. All eight samples were genuine and satisfied the Preservatives in Food Regulations.

ICE CREAMS (12)

The maximum, minimum and average percentages of fat, milk solids other than fat and sugar were as follows :—

	<i>Fat</i> <i>per Cent</i>	<i>Milk Solids</i> <i>per Cent</i>	<i>Sugar</i> <i>per Cent</i>
Maximum	9.96	13.50	17.98
Minimum	3.50	7.50	10.46
Average	7.24	9.36	13.78

One sample was deficient to the extent of 0.50 per cent fat below standard. All others conformed to the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Amendment Order.

WHISKIES (6)

The strengths of these whiskies ranged from 29.4 to 34.7 degrees under proof and were reported genuine.

JAMS AND JELLIES (3), CONDENSED MILK (1), LEMON CURD (1)

The soluble solids were 70.13 per cent. in the strawberry jam, 73.20 per cent. in the raspberry and 86.20 per cent. in the table jelly. The machine skimmed condensed milk contained 29.50 per cent. total milk solids. The lemon curd contained 74.20 per cent. soluble solids.

MEAT PASTES (2), TINNED FOODS (2)

The meat paste contained 60.52 and 61.20 per cent. meat and the tinned foods contained 0.09 and 0.12 grains tin per pound.

All other samples not specially mentioned conformed to their respective standards.

PROSECUTIONS

Court proceedings were taken in respect of the official sample of ice-cream reported to be deficient in fat content. A fine of £2 was imposed. In the case of the three non-genuine milk samples, which related to milk produced at one farm, a plea of "not guilty" was tendered. Later this plea was changed when a fine of £5 was imposed, with £2 expenses.

FOOD LAWS

No infringements of the Labelling of Food Order, 1950, were found during 36 shop inspections covering a variety of packeted foods exposed for sale. The necessity for shopkeepers complying with this Order and the Merchandise Marks Acts, 1926, regarding the marking of imported tomatoes with the country of origin, was emphasised on many occasions. There were no seizures of food during the year in terms of Section 43 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897, and no administrative action was necessary in respect of the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations and the Food and Drugs (Whalemeat) Regulations.

5. Food Premises and Hygiene

Progress continues to be made in our efforts to ensure better and cleaner methods of handling, storing or preparing foodstuffs for sale. Whilst it is not easy to assess fully the progress that has been made these past few years most of the larger shops have introduced improved methods of handling and display of foods, and some have reached very high standards indeed. At the other end of the scale a few shops still lag behind, oblivious of our efforts and the propaganda that has been so active recently by press and wireless about the dangers that can arise through careless handling of food. Increased attention had to be given to the cleanliness of several shops where, because of the variety of goods sold in addition to foods, a suitable standard was not being maintained. Despite their obvious faults some of these small "mixed" shops seemed to have a good turn-over.

During the nine-day run of the Kirkcaldy Traders' Exhibition in October a special display of "Clean Food" exhibits took place. The public was provided with an excellent comparison between a "good" shop and a "dirty" shop so far as the display and handling of food is concerned. The realistic nature of the exhibits which were loaned by the Department of Health for Scotland created favourable comment by the many visitors to the stand, as did the posters and strips supplied by the Scottish Council for Health Education. In comment, no one had a good word to say for the slovenly methods of the careless food handler; several felt there was still too many unclean habits to be seen in food shops and restaurants; the majority took strong exception to cats being kept where food is prepared or sold. Few, however, said they objected when confronted with careless food handling while shopping or dining; some said they had discontinued purchases from shops with a poor hygienic standard; most thought it was the local authority's responsibility to correct unsatisfactory methods or deal with offenders. Included on the exhibition stand were samples of the various foods and drugs that are taken regularly by the department for analysis or testing. Many of our visitors were not aware of the wide range of foodstuffs sampled annually nor of the many other duties that sanitary and health officials undertook in the interests of public well-being.

Many interesting questions were raised when a talk on food hygiene was given at one well-attended women's organisation and it was apparent that a much higher standard of care is expected from shop assistants in food shops. The value of cellophane wrapping and polythene food saver bags for dish covering in the home made a strong appeal to those present when samples of the material were passed around. It was emphasised that, after purchase, food needed the same protective care in the home if it was to remain wholesome and germ-free, whilst waste of perishable foods like milk, butter, meat, fish and bacon could be considerably reduced by the adoption of these simple forms of protection. At the meeting and at another, mainly attended by shop assistants, the presence of animals in food shops was strongly condemned.

The dirty condition in which many milk bottles are returned to dairymen by householders was commented upon by milk retailers when discussing food hygiene points with them. Here is a field where the public can assist the clean food campaign by returning milk bottles promptly and in a clean state.

The model bakery, which opened its premises to the public on four nights in the previous year, repeated the arrangement again in the autumn. Another 600 people took the opportunity of looking over the bakery, which is one of the most up-to-date in the district. Greater confidence is given to the shopping public when they have seen the high standard of cleanliness in premises where the food is produced. More firms should adopt this innovation.

The extension to the works' canteen of a large linoleum firm was completed this year; the increase in kitchen space and better storage for vegetables has made a noteworthy improvement. A large trailer vehicle, fitted as a travelling shop, for the sale of groceries, bread and cakes, was put into service by a local Co-operative Society in a rapidly developing housing area until permanent premises are built. Designed for the self-service system it has two doors, long windows on either side and is fitted with cold water tank and wash basin for use by the assistant. A new public house was also completed in a housing area; main features include modern fitted bar with the latest tumbler washing equipment and stainless steel sinks, hot and cold water supply throughout, central heating, large lounge fitted with tables, spacious lighting and ventilation, attractive wall and floor coverings and lavatories for both sexes. There has been a steady improvement in tumbler washing arrangements at most public houses throughout the town.

The efficiency of bottle-washing plant at creameries and lemonade factories was given attention; bacteriological tests indicated that methods required improvement at one factory.

Some swabbing tests of utensils and dish rinsing waters from restaurants and ice-cream premises produced satisfactory results, although in one instance the sampling followed a complaint of unclean conditions in the retail sale of ice-cream. Other materials in food premises sampled and tested bacteriologically included dried milks, buttered cream, fondant and an iced lolly. Altogether 500 visits were made to food premises; it was necessary to write three shopkeepers about unsatisfactory standards of cleanliness and several were asked to improve methods during the course of inspections.

6. Unsound Food

During the year the following foods were found to be unfit for

human consumption ; wherever possible, the condemned food was used for animal feeding :—

	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Ozs.</i>
Fresh Fruit	192	—
Canned Fruit	5,495	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Canned Vegetables	869	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Canned Fish	36	14 $\frac{3}{4}$
Canned Meat	2,126	11
Canned Meat and Vegetables	31	15
Canned Milk	165	15
Canned Soup	485	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
Canned Jam	61	—
Miscellaneous	1,699	13 $\frac{3}{4}$
Total	11,164	6$\frac{1}{4}$

7. Meat

In his report, Mr. Walsh, Slaughterhouse Superintendent, provides the following statistics for 1953 :—

Class of Animals	Number of Animals			Weight (in lbs. of condemned meat and offal)
	Slaughtered	Wholly Condemned	Partially Condemned	
Cattle	3,906	71	39	69,093
Sheep	22,274	66	51	7,425
Pigs	3,623	11	20	6,762
Calves	1,508	46	—	2,513
TOTALS	31,311	194	110	85,793

The total weight of meat and offals condemned amounted to 38 tons 6 cwt. 1 lb. Sales of by-products were as follows :—

Meat and Bone Meal	11 tons 17 cwt.
Dried Blood	40 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt.
Technical Tallow	8 tons 14 cwt.

A complete inspection of all carcasses is made in accordance with the Public Health (Meat) Regulations (Scotland) 1932. Although the abattoir is of comparatively modern construction and equipped with hot and cold water supplies it does not comply in all respects with Ministry of Food Hygiene recommendations contained in D.H.S. Circular 60/1953. Such matters as clothing and equipment used by slaughtermen, washing and drying facilities, sterilisation of knives and wiping cloths, and methods to reduce floor contamination, etc., are under consideration by the Medical Officer, Sanitary Inspector and Slaughterhouse Superintendent with a view to better arrangements being provided.

8. Ice Cream Premises

Manufacturers and retailers are complying satisfactorily with the requirements of the Ice Cream (Scotland) Regulations, 1948. The total number of premises and vehicles registered by the Town Council at the end of the year was as follows :—

Manufacturing Premises	....	....	14
Retail Premises	....	....	25
Retail Vehicles (Motors)	....	....	24
Retail Vehicles (Horse)	....	....	7
Retail Vehicles (Barrows, etc.)	....	....	11

In addition to the above, pre-wrapped ice cream was sold in 51 premises, including shops, cinemas and places of entertainment.

Visits to registered premises totalled 80 ; on the whole, premises and plant were found to be clean and in good order. In one instance a proposal to add a milk-house to ice cream manufacturing premises and use the washing facilities and steam chest for combined purposes was held in abeyance pending a better standard of cleanliness and arrangement in the ice cream premises.

Sixteen samples of ice cream were subjected to bacteriological examinations as a guide to the hygienic standard of manufacture or distribution. All the samples had bacterial counts of less than 200,000 ; in two cases B.Coli was present. Increased attention was given to equipment and methods at the premises concerned.

9. Shops Acts

Three new shops were opened and three shops re-opened after being closed for some years, to increase the total shops in the Burgh to 791. Visits to shops numbered 638 ; in most cases the exhibition of statutory notices was in order. Inspectors were also on duty occasionally at nights to ensure compliance with closing orders and on Wednesday afternoons in connection with weekly half-holiday requirements.

Three shopkeepers were warned verbally about failure to comply with closing times. Extension of hours to 9.30 p.m. was granted during the period of Kirkcaldy Traders' Exhibition in the Adam Smith and Beveridge Halls. Sales by auction of drapery and woollen goods, in local halls, had to be regulated to comply with the Drapers' Closing Order. One enquiry was received from a shop-keeper about averaging hours of a young person over the fortnight when Christmas occurred and the exhibition of Form Z.

10. Places of Public Refreshment

The bye-laws cover such matters as hours of opening and closing, adequate lighting and sanitary accommodation. Some 120 visits were made to 46 registered premises. No infringements of the bye-laws were discovered or reported but improvements to premises were suggested in two cases.

GENERAL SANITATION

11. Nuisance and Sanitary Defects

During the year 484 complaints were received from members of the public and 40 nuisances and sanitary defects were discovered by the Inspectors in the course of their duties. Some of the alleged nuisances did not warrant action by the department; about 290 complaints were remedied immediately on being brought to the attention of the parties concerned. The abatement of nuisances necessitated 1,128 inspections and re-visits. There were 168 intimations and notices served in terms of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897, and the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892. Several minor infringements of the Kirkcaldy Burgh Extension etc. Order Confirmation Act, 1950, were also brought to the notice of owners and occupiers.

The following table shows the number and type of nuisances dealt with during the year :—

1.	Dirty houses and premises cleaned	13
2.	Dirty W.C. apartments cleansed	2
3.	Dirty stairs and passages cleaned	4
4.	Dirty areas and courts cleaned	2
5.	Verminous houses sprayed and fumigated	14
6.	Other verminous conditions remedied	62
7.	Dampness in houses abated or improved	104
8.	Defective sinks repaired or renewed	2
9.	Defective water closets repaired or renewed	11
10.	Defective rhones, waste pipes, etc., repaired	9
11.	Choked sinks, tubs and water closets cleared	3
12.	Choked drains and traps cleared	47
13.	Accumulations of rubbish removed	13
14.	W.C.s introduced	—
15.	Staircases and passages (limewashed or painted)	4
16.	Keeping of hens, dogs, cats dirty	5
17.	Miscellaneous nuisances	229
		<hr/>
		524
		<hr/>

Nuisances dealt with again showed a slight increase over the previous year. A number of complaints referred to dampness in houses, which is not easily remedied if it rises from the ground; roof repairs were needed at many properties. The reason for periodic flooding in a basement cellar of house property was not readily explained, despite exhaustive investigation. Unusual smells in two shops led to the discovery of sewage being found under the floors due to defective drainage in adjoining passages. Complaints of smells from ground being trenched for building purposes was found to be caused by seepage from a septic tank overflow not connected to the sewer. The lack of paving and adequate surface drainage of areas at one property necessitated intimation for need of improvement.

Several dirty houses called for close supervision this year. In one instance promises to clean up the house did not materialise. When the occupier twice failed to have the house opened for inspection, following previous arrangements by letter, a Magistrate's warrant had to be obtained to gain admission. The house was found to be filthy and over-run with mice. The case was reported for prosecution when a fine of thirty shillings was imposed upon the occupier, along with a daily penalty if the house was not immediately cleansed. Remedial action took place within a few days ; several neighbours assisted the occupier in the process and also helped with wall papering and painting.

Permanent repairs to houses at Dysart, affected by subsidence from underground workings, were completed by the National Coal Board since settlement had ceased. Nuisance was also reduced at nearby smallholdings by the Board's action in repairing or renewing drains and septic tanks damaged by land movement. There was an increase in the number of choked drains and traps reported, some of which could have been avoided by more careful use of sanitary fittings. Repairs to houses, particularly those in the low rental group, continue to be a problem ; because of high costs both of labour and materials only the minimum of upkeep is being done in many cases.

During the summer measures were again undertaken to minimise nuisance from flies; while it is difficult to assess the value of these precautions, it is felt they are worth while. Premises treated included stables, piggeries, manure heaps, the beaches and foreshore and Corporation refuse tips. In the late autumn numerous small flies caused complaint from householders in areas near tree plantations ; the onset of cold weather remedied this nuisance. Several houses and parts of an hospital were sprayed with insecticide for fleas ; treatment was carried out at a men's lodging house following admission of a patient to an institution in a verminous condition.

Measures to eradicate ants at hospital premises were continued throughout the year ; while some success has followed these efforts a more comprehensive system of treatment is now under consideration. Advice and assistance was given to a firm dealing with bug infestation at a hostel recently occupied by foreign workers ; spraying with insecticide took place at a furniture store when bug infested bedding was discovered there. An unusual insect, found in a banana crate from the Cameroons, was handed into the office by a shopkeeper. With beautiful golden wings on a pale green body it was later identified as a Tortoise Beetle which could not survive in this country. It was accepted as a specimen by the Zoology Department of a University.

Notices were received under the Hydrogen Cyanide (Fumigation of Buildings) Regulations, 1951, referring to the fumigation of two flour mills against insect infestation. This procedure, which also destroys mice in the premises, is now being done annually. Nuisance can arise from the keeping of animals. While the number of stables has considerably decreased in recent years, more pigs are being kept

in holdings and at other premises. Altogether fifty inspections were made to piggeries ; in several instances a higher standard of cleanliness was asked. In one case the premises and arrangements were found to be entirely unsuitable for the purpose and pig-keeping was discontinued.

The Links Market arrangements are now organised in such a way that little nuisance can arise from the influx of caravans and shows for the annual Fair. Few complaints arose ; 357 vans were inspected. A proposal to have a caravan site for holiday makers at Pathhead Sands will be considered once the sewerage scheme in this area is completed. The need for better sanitary arrangements at public parks is also under discussion to cope with the large parties of visitors that frequently arrive during the summer months. The present lavatories, near the entrance gates, are not suitably placed for parties distributed throughout the parks ; some of the temporary conveniences provided have been inadequate and unsatisfactory.

12. Rat Destruction

The following information was included in the annual report sent to the Department of Agriculture under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Visits and inspections made by the staff, including the rodent operator, totalled 335 in respect of 99 premises where rats and mice were suspected or found this year. Poisoning or trapping was carried out at 79 properties and good results were noted in 69 cases. "Block" operations, covering several properties, took place on four occasions ; treatment of 50 sewer manholes in the area formed part of these operations. Vermin known to be destroyed numbered 148 rats and 469 mice.

Harbour shipping was checked on 18 occasions for Rodent Control Certificates ; all were in order but one, which was in course of being renewed. Since the resignation of the part-time rodent operator in March, firms have been encouraged to appoint rat destruction operators of their own, and several have done so. An arrangement is under discussion with Fife County Council whereby the services of their rat destruction staff could be extended to the Burgh, when required.

13. Infectious Diseases

Work connected with infectious diseases called for investigation into 198 cases comprising :—scarlet fever 151 ;? diphtheria 2 ; dysentery 24 ; infective jaundice 13 ; gastro-enteritis 4 ; cerebro spinal fever 1 ; T.B. Meningitis 2 ; food poisoning 1. Bedding was removed and rooms fumigated on eleven occasions.

A report was sent to the Medical Officer of Health on all cases investigated ; this included enquiries about a County case of undulant fever where milk was obtained from a Burgh producer. Intimation of the occurrence of infectious disease was notified to Headmasters of local schools in 158 instances.

14. Water

The Water Engineer reported that the rainfall for 1953 at the gathering grounds was 29.09 inches, which represents 78.83 per cent of the long average rainfall. For the first five months only 8.2 inches of rainfall was recorded being the lowest quantity for this period since 1905. June was also a dry month. Although July produced 3.74 inches the reservoirs did not benefit materially due to the previous long dry spell. It was not until towards the end of September that any appreciable improvement was observed in storage at the impounding reservoirs.

Levels continued to rise during October although rainfall was only 46.75 per cent of the average. The heavy and continuous rain in November and December, when rainfall recorded was 4.51 and 3.74 inches respectively, was responsible for a gain in storage of 414.74 million gallons, giving a net real increase in storage of 334.96 million gallons after deducting the water received from Fife County Council. At the end of December total storage in the reservoirs was 614,216,000 gallons against an average over a five year period of 764,950,000 gallons.

Restrictions on the use of water for car washing through a hose, for gardens and other non-essential purposes continued throughout the year. Except for curtailment of the use of street drinking fountains the domestic supply was not restricted in any way, nor was the use of water for public health purposes, but a strict watch was maintained to prevent wastage of any kind. Extra men were employed, both day and night, on waste water prevention duty and the public were asked to economise in the use of water. The Cleansing Department pumped water direct from the Tiel Burn for weekly washing of the vehicle fleet ; many keen gardeners saved used kitchen water for crop watering, with good results.

An Order allowing a reduction in the amount of compensation water by one million gallons daily was sanctioned for a period to allow the reservoirs to make up storage before the summer, and means for permanently augmenting the Burgh's water supply were also investigated by the Town Council. Eventually it was decided to construct a wave wall at Ballo to increase the storage capacity at this reservoir and to proceed with the sinking of a bore near the new Rothies Colliery to tap the underground water known to be in this locality. It was estimated that water would be found round about 500 feet deep and the bore reached nearly 100 feet by the end of the year.

With a diminishing supply of water in storage and a seasonal rise in temperature it was inevitable that some complaints would be received about taste, smell or appearance of drinking water during the summer. Complaints made concerned the brown colour of water and sediment deposit, small pink worms and minute insect life coming from household taps in some parts of the town, and, for a period, an excess of chlorine affecting the taste of tea. All these complaints were investigated or

reported to the Water Department for attention. To ensure that the water supply remained wholesome twelve samples were tested at different times in different parts of the town with the following results : 11 complied satisfactorily with bacteriological standards ; the incoming Glendevon water sample submitted for chemical analysis was reported to be fairly heavily charged with dissolved organic matter and had a vegetable odour and taste but was otherwise safe for drinking and other domestic uses.

Twenty-five samples of drinking water were drawn from ships' tanks for bacteriological examination, mainly on arrival of vessels at the port. Thirteen of the samples were reported to be satisfactory, eight samples were found to be unsatisfactory and four were of doubtful quality. The owners and masters of the ships concerned were informed of the results so that remedial measures could be put in hand.

15. Factories

There were 325 mechanical and 60 non-mechanical factories on the register at the end of the year, which shows a slight decrease over 1952. In addition four other premises came under supervision by section 7 of the Factories Act, 1937 ; no out-workers were registered. Inspections totalled 463, mainly in relation to cleanliness and sanitary accommodation. Twenty-one visits were made to bakehouses regarding washing down or limewashing of wall surfaces. The attention of occupiers of factories was drawn to one case of want of cleanliness, three cases of insufficient sanitary conveniences and thirteen cases of unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences. Seven intimations of sanitary defects found at factories were referred to the Local Authority by H.M. Inspector of Factories. Plans were submitted for examination and report in respect of alterations, extensions and for new or improved sanitary accommodation at twenty-two factories and for three new factories.

16. Lodging Houses

Inspections continued to be made to the two lodging houses for men situated at Birrell Street Wynd and Mid Street ; both houses are now outwith the registration requirements of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897. Some cleaning and painterwork was carried out at Birrell Street Wynd to make the place more respectable ; both houses, however, are old, worn-out and should be closed. The difficulty is finding alternative accommodation for the occupiers.

Two letters were sent to one keeper regarding the want of cleanliness and the dirty, scanty condition of the bedding. A supply of D.D.T. powder was given for use at these premises. Lodgers averaged about twenty at each place. A good number are pensioners ; some are employed ; others are unemployed or casuals.

17. Smoke, Grit and Fumes

Thirty observations of factory and works' chimneys were recorded in 1953 and 15 inspections of boiler plant and furnaces carried out. Some 57 complaints of smoke nuisance were received, including 48 in respect of one factory chimney; eight defects at domestic chimneys were remedied after investigation. In five cases it was necessary to send warning letters about excessive discharge of smoke.

Smoke pollution from one factory chimney was such that the matter had to be reported to the Health Committee for further action when no improvement took place after the firm had been written. Later, a representative from the firm concerned appeared before the Committee and was advised to seek the advice of the Ministry of Fuel and Power regarding efficiency of the boiler plant and the methods of stoking. This matter was under consideration at the end of the year.

Excessive smoke discharge from a linoleum factory destructor burning waste bitumen felt needed attention when overloading of the fire-grate took place on several occasions. Better arrangements for loading the furnace reduced nuisance in this case as did improved methods of hand stoking at another two boiler plants. A change-over to coke fuel reduced complaints from a garage chimney which had been fouling washings in a nearby drying green. The more extensive use of coke fuel in small heating plants for workshops and similar premises could lessen complaints by surrounding occupiers.

Building additions to the bitumen saturating plant at one factory proceeded this year; when completed, modern equipment will supersede the two hand-fired bitumen boilers which have caused offence by fumes and smoke to nearby householders.

The erection of this factory extension, by its height and close proximity to houses, gave rise to complaints of down draught in some dwellings during certain winds; an investigation was made over a period of three months. Some of the household chimneyheads needed repair; when completed conditions may improve. In this area and others nearby dwelling houses are in the midst of industrial buildings.

With a heavy atmosphere and hazy conditions smoke hangs low over this district to drift slowly towards housing schemes and over the countryside. Weather conditions of this kind occurred on several occasions this year.

Smoke, grit and dust nuisance from the Gas Works again gave rise to much complaint by householders in the district surrounding these premises and fumes from the over-taxed Tully gas plant were also pronounced at times. Erection of new plant at the Gas Works proceeded throughout the year but it will be next April before it is ready to replace existing manufacturing plant. Gas Board officials expect nuisance from the Works to be reduced considerably when the new plant goes into operation.

It is regrettable to report that for the second year in succession boiler firemen did not come forward in sufficient numbers to justify a class being started in Boiler House Practice and Smoke Abatement at the Technical College this autumn. A new short course of twelve lectures was to be given for a Boiler Operator's Certificate. Few young men act as boiler attendants in Kirkcaldy, which is one reason why there is such a poor response for technical qualifications.

18. Burial Grounds

The three main burial grounds in the Burgh are supervised by the Parks and Cemeteries Superintendent who also controls three of the five old burying grounds, all of which are seldom used now, except Abbotshall Churchyard. In the latter case, because of rising costs and diminishing use of the grounds, the Town Council has agreed to terminate the present agreement with the Kirk Session and to assume responsibility for the maintenance and control of Abbotshall Churchyard at 31st December, 1953.

Discussions have taken place during the year to further advance the erection of a crematorium in the town.

19. Rivers Pollution

The condition of the East Burn, which takes waste water from a felt factory, was most unsatisfactory throughout the year due to continued low rainfall; on several occasions this water course was smelly and dirty, with septic conditions arising in the deeper pools.

When this trade waste is diverted into the new sewerage scheme next year, the East Burn should become a clear flowing stream again. The Tiel Burn remained comparatively free from reed growth; a small patch which developed near the Esplanade bridge was dug out to give the burn a straight run to the sea. Heavy rains in the autumn flushed out both water courses.

The National Coal Board was notified about the serious pollution of the foreshore at Dysart with colliery washer waste, which had covered a considerable area of the beach along to Dovecot houses, where a drying green was covered with black silt. A deputation from the Town Council met Coal Board officials on the site when assurances were given that the beach would be cleaned up and steps introduced to prevent further pollution from the washery plant at Frances Colliery. Some of these measures had been put into effect before the year ended, but it will take a long time to restore Dysart beach to its former condition.

20. Schools, Cinemas, Public Buildings and Dance Halls

Twenty-three inspections were made to schools, mainly in respect of cleanliness of buildings or defects likely to be injurious to the health of scholars and staff. Sanitary defects requiring the attention of the Education Department at six schools included defective heating boilers and vents, draughty windows, leaking water closets, missing lavatory seats and damp and broken walls and floors at outside conveniences. Temperatures could not be taken at most Burgh schools due to the absence of thermometers. By the end of the year defects had been remedied at three schools ; work was in hand at another ; new sanitation was to be installed at one school where temporary repairs of essential items were being made, and one case had been referred to a Visitation Committee preparing a programme of work for 1954-55.

Joint inspection was made by Corporation officials to six cinemas and thirty-four other buildings and halls used for public entertainment and a report was submitted to the Magistrates before grant of renewal licences. Regular cleanliness and decoration of premises was found to be faulty at two small halls ; cleaner premises were stipulated when these licences were renewed.

A range of most modern lavatories for ladies and gentlemen was completed this year at the Adam Smith Halls, finished in terrazzo, vitrolite panels and other readily cleansed surfaces. The improvements are an asset to the Halls, which are now in fairly regular use. Experiments to improve the ventilation in the main halls are under consideration by the Burgh Engineer. Kata thermometer readings were taken by the sanitary staff on several occasions when large audiences were using the premises ; air movement and temperatures were found to be unsatisfactory. Temperature and kata thermometer readings were taken at one cinema where previous complaint had been registered. A desirable improvement had taken place following structural alterations.

21. Offices

Forty-eight inspections were made to offices this year ; most were found to be clean and provided with sufficient toilet facilities. Due to rapid expansion of the town more offices are wanted ; two firms took over vacant dwelling houses in extension of their office premises. Plans were examined for the erection of seven new offices and for additional sanitary accommodation at three others.

22. Public Cleansing

Healthy living starts with clean surroundings and the removal of communal wastes from our midst. The Cleansing Department performs this sanitary service by the collection and removal of refuse and salvage, street cleansing, refuse disposal and the supervision of public conveniences.

After allowing for revenue of £3,879 the cost of all these services amounted to £38,464 for the year ending 15th May, 1953. This worked out at 15/5d. per head of the population. It cost 26/7d. to collect and dispose of a ton of refuse. There is a total of eighty-two employees in the Cleansing Department and a motor refuse collector fleet of ten vehicles ; for street cleansing work a mechanical sweeper-collector and a gully emptier are provided. The labour position makes it difficult to maintain a full staff at all times.

REFUSE COLLECTION : The rapid completion of new houses in the Templehall District necessitated frequent extension of the refuse collection arrangements throughout the year. Occupation of houses was sometimes ahead of road and pavement works, which delayed speedy collection, and movement over unfinished road surfaces increased wear and tear of vehicles. At new houses built since the war a twice weekly collection of refuse is given, while in the main parts of the town a thrice weekly collection is maintained. Householders place their receptacles at the kerb-side prior to the call of the refuse collection vehicle ; in windy weather some nuisance from dust and blowing paper arises for many of the receptacles are without lids. More covered bins should be used. House salvage continues to be collected by trailers attached to the refuse vehicles, including waste paper, tins, bottles and rags. Few complaints were received about this service ; some referred to non-collection of refuse which, on investigation, revealed that the buckets had been placed on the street after the vehicle had passed. One householder, whose bin had been missed on the morning round, telephoned his thanks later the same day when he found that his full bin had been emptied and returned to his house.

Approval was given by the Town Council to a scheme for the collection of "trade refuse" from shops and other business premises. Apart from a charge to be imposed for the service given, based on the number of standard $3\frac{1}{4}$ cubic feet covered bins lifted at each call, the scheme should lead to economy in transport and also improve the appearance of our main shopping areas on collection days. The new "trade refuse" scheme is likely to be introduced at 16th May, 1954. At present one vehicle is employed full time on refuse collection from shops and business premises and others work on a part-time basis. Special collections of refuse or salvage are made, when necessary, and a charge imposed for the time and labour involved.

After tests, an order was placed for a modern type refuse collector fitted with fore and aft tipper and diesel engine ; this vehicle can be used for collecting all types of refuse. A salvage compartment is included in the cab which saves the need for one trailer.

STREET CLEANSING : This is carried out on the "beat" system by a staff of twenty-six regular sweepers equipped with modern street orderly barrows. The equipment also includes a mechanical street sweeper-collector and a motor gully emptier. A limited amount of

Sunday street cleansing is carried out on main streets only. Litter bins are placed at a number of points throughout the town to help pedestrians keep the streets clean and free from unwanted throw-aways. They could be used more frequently for the reception of ice-cream cartons, fish and chip bags, fruit peel and 'bus tickets, especially on Saturdays. Two large litter receptacles were set in position this year with good effect ; one at the Esplanade 'Bus Station and one at the new car park in Whytescauseway. A contract has been arranged with a publicity firm whereby the number of litter bins will be considerably increased throughout the town next summer.

Only slight falls of snow had to be dealt with this year but there were some short spells of frost and rime ; main attention was given to sanding ice-covered footpaths in hilly districts and side streets not exposed to the melting action of the sun. The Burgh Engineer's Department deals with the gritting of streets in frosty weather. Dirty streets and choked gullies at the new housing areas, where some of the road surfaces had not yet been completed, were a source of complaint. The condition was aggravated by a heavy thunder-storm in May and heavy rains later in the year. Cleansing of gullies improved matters but final road surfacing is required to rectify the position. It usually takes some months after completion of a housing scheme to get streets into a satisfactory state of cleanliness, which can be maintained.

REFUSE DISPOSAL : Except for a small quantity of combustible refuse and objectionable material, which is burned daily at Parkmill destructor, all refuse is transported by motor to the two disposal points at Balbarton and Gallatown. Balbarton tip has a life of many years, with room for possible extension. Gallatown, on the other hand, which originally started as a refuse tip in a deep quarry about 1920, now has a banking all round above the surrounding fields, in preparation for the Sports Stadium proposed to be provided at this site.

The first stage of preparing playing fields there took place during the summer when bulldozing and levelling of the central arena was carried out prior to drainage work being undertaken. Refuse will be tipped at Gallatown for some time yet but another disposal point for refuse from the north part of the town, probably at Bogie Farm, will have to be considered in the near future. The total amount of refuse deposited at both tips, including builders' rubbish and soil covering, was estimated to be 21,700 tons of which house refuse and street sweepings weighed about 18,600 tons.

Entry was obtained to the main buildings at Denburn Yard which will become the centralised premises for the Cleansing Department. Fencing of the whole site and levelling of the ground was in course of being carried out. Draft plans, showing the utilisation of the main buildings for large garage, motor repair workshop, paper and tin baling plant, small incinerator and stores, were under consideration at the end of the year. Space should still be available on the site for the erection of a salvage and incineration plant, or plant for the conversion

of refuse into compost for farmland improvement, if such is required in the future. It will take some time before the centralised premises are fully equipped with staff muster room, canteen and other facilities considered desirable at a modern depot. They can be made into a workable centralised unit, however, once petrol services and vehicle washing arrangements are provided along with completion of the proposed alterations. Some of the existing Cleansing Department premises are in a worn-out condition. The need for sweeping barrow depots at suitable points throughout the town is also under consideration since some will be lost when the change is made to Denburn Yard.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES : These have to stand a lot of excessive wear and tear due to malicious damage and carelessness. At times, too, misuse of the premises leads to justified complaints about fouling, when constant supervision is not available. Seven public convenience cleaners are employed, three men and four women ; each is responsible for the cleanliness of a number of lavatories including those in public parks. Most of the premises are of a fairly good standard ; one urinal at Mitchell Street is to be modernised soon and another at Castle Brae will be rebuilt on a site nearby at a later date. The erection of premises to provide sanitary accommodation for a number of small businesses at the Smeaton Industrial Site and for the public in this area has not yet materialised ; approval for borrowing powers to meet the cost is likely to be granted in the coming year. Approval, however, has been obtained for the provision of ladies' and gents' conveniences adjoining new shops at Hendry Road in an extensive housing area. This will be the first of several conveniences required in this rapidly growing part of the town. No progress can be made with the provision of modern public lavatories at the junction of Cairns Street and St. Clair Street until the site is vacated. A convenience will be provided soon at Pathhead Sands for use by summer crowds on the beach.

The money collected from public conveniences locks throughout the town totalled £228 15s. 1d. for the year ending 15th May, 1953.

23. Sewers and Drains

The supervision of sewers and the testing of all new drainage is the responsibility of the Burgh Engineer's Department. Defects at existing drains are dealt with by the Sanitary Department. Joint inspections take place when both departments are concerned with the repair or improvement of a defective drainage system.

Despite the long dry spell in the first half of the year, complaints of smells from sewers or manholes were few indeed. The action of sealing each road gully with clean water after it is mechanically cleansed avoids nuisance of this kind. Water for the purpose was drawn from the Tiel Burn. When occasional heavy rains did occur the sewers functioned without any serious case of flooding being reported. One over-night rain storm caused sewer manhole covers and street gully tops to be displaced in the lower part of the town, the storm coinciding with a high tide.

An unusual position arose when a laden petrol tanker vehicle was involved in a street collision whereby about 200 gallons of petrol was spilled and a good quantity found its way into nearby gullies. Later that day and the following day complaints of petrol fumes in premises lower down the line of sewer and at other premises widely apart, were reported. To allow the sewers to be freed from petrol fumes quickly all street manholes over a wide area were opened up for several hours. At two premises petrol fumes were intense in a cellar and at a shop where sewer smells had given previous trouble. Drainage defects were found and made good.

A burst in the main Denburn sewer also occurred during a short, sharp, rainy spell in July; for some days crude sewage was flowing into the East Burn. Difficulty was experienced in blocking up the leakage and special plant had to be brought into use to deal satisfactorily with the repair. For a short period the comminutor plant at Pathhead Sands did not function; it was noticeable how soon foreshore pollution re-appeared. Complaint of smells from Chapel Burn led to the discovery of a serious chokeage at the junction of the two village sewers there; the manhole was buried several feet and the surrounding ground overgrown with weeds. Once the choke was cleared the manhole was built up to ground surface. The street gullies in Chapel were all thoroughly cleaned out and put under the Burgh scheme for regular mechanical cleansing. The year saw a start made to the comprehensive main sewerage scheme and new sea outfall at Pathhead Sands.

Ground subsidence at Gallatown necessitated major repairs to drainage and septic tanks at several smallholdings. In three instances new septic tanks were built by the National Coal Board and the drains re-aligned to more suitable outfalls. Some drainage repairs are still needed at other holdings; soakaways are not working very efficiently in ground disturbed by underground workings. Because the surrounding land has now sunk several feet below the level of the previous outfall, a cesspool will have to be provided at one place which will need emptying by machine periodically. Where road access is available the Department's gully emptier can speedily clean out septic tanks and farm aile tanks, with the minimum of nuisance. Serious chokeage of drains at one tenement property necessitated the ground being opened up right down to the sewer connection, which was found to be faulty and the cause of blockage.

24. Rag, Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

Three premises are registered in terms of Section 2 of the Act; no premises are licenced in terms of Section 6. Flock is not manufactured in any of the premises; the only firms using filling materials are furniture and bedding manufacturers.

25. Pet Animals Act, 1951

The administration of the Act is not difficult in this area, where most small livestock sold is bred by the seller. Four licences were issued covering three shops and one aviary at a private dwelling. No infringements occurred.

26. Pharmacy and Poisons Act and Orders

The Council's list of authorised sellers of Part II poisons included 26 shopkeepers covering 39 separate premises. Five shopkeepers sell poisons coming within the First Schedule of the Poisons Rules, mainly for horticultural purposes. Registers were inspected during routine inspection ; no infringements were discovered.

Fifteen visits were made to ensure proper labelling of containers and packages. The sale of poisons, coming within the Rules, was not observed at unauthorised premises. Three test samples of disinfectants were submitted for analysis ; they complied in all respects.

27. Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs

Six informal samples were sent to the Agricultural Analyst for examination, being five fertilisers and one feeding stuff. One sample complied in all respects with the statutory statement given in terms of Section 1 of the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926 ; two samples showed an excess in one constituent over the guarantee ; two samples produced a deficiency in one constituent and one sample was deficient in three constituents. In two cases the fertilisers were returned to the sellers by the shopkeepers.

The samples examined included meat and bone meal, bone meal, dried blood, garden lime and tomato base fertiliser.



